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Message Text

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73
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 L-03 H-03 PA-03 SCI-06 SS-15

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NIC-01 USIA-15

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE EHURWITZ:DK
APPROVED BY EUR JAARMITAGE
EUR/EE - JABAKER
SES - RTITUS
---------- 037394
R 060043Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

1. CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR DUSAN SPACIL TOLD DEPUTY ASSISTAN SECRETARY ARMITAGE OCTOBER 5 THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON EXCHANGES AGREEMENT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 22 BE POSTPONED UNTIL END OF NOVEMBER. SPACIL SAID GOC ALSO PREFERRED THAT VENUE OF TALKS BE SHIFTED FROM WASHINGTON TO PRAGUE. REASON BEHIND PROPOSED CHANGES, SPACIL SAID, WAS THAT NEGOTIATIONS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE COORDINATED ON CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE BETWEEN THREE JURISDICTIONS: CZECH, SLOVAK, AND FEDERAL, A PROCESS WHICH WOULD TAKE TIME AND WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH IF TALKS WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON. SPACIL EMPHASIZED THAT PROPOSED CHANGES HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH POLICY, BUT WERE DICTATED ONLY BY TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS. (FYI: THIS IS IN LINE WITH OCTOBER 2 CONVERSATION BETWEEN ZANTOVSKY AND EUR/EE DIRECTOR BAKER IN PRAGUE. ZANTOVSKY PROPOSED SHIFTING TALKS
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FROM WASHINGTON TO PRAGUE, CLAIMING THAT THIS WOULD EASE

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BURDEN ON HIS OFFICE WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR STAFFING BOTH EXCHANGE TALKS AND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS. MEMCON BEING POUCHED.)

2. ARMITAGE SAID THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS BEHIND SPACIL'S REQUEST AND AFTER TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT IT, WOULD GIVE HIM OUR RESPONSE. ONE POSSIBILITY WHICH MIGHT BE EXPLORED WAS THAT OF EXCHANGING DRAFT TEXTS ON OCTOBER 22 AND THEN BEGINNING MEETINGS AFTER EACH SIDE HAD STUDIED THE OTHER'S DRAFT. SPACIL AGREED THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, HE WAS NOT SURE THE GOC WOULD HAVE A DRAFT READY BY THAT TIME. IN ANY CASE, HE WOULD SUGGEST THIS POSSIBILITY TO PRAGUE.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE199480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731045/aaaabhfx.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
To: PRAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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